

**Amendments**

Please amend the application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel all pending claims (1-14), and add the following new claims:

- BC
- BI
15. (New) A composite fire stop article for placement in an opening in a partition to form a fire barrier in the opening without a secondary support structure, said article comprising:
- (a) an interior insulating material; and
  - (b) an intumescent material arranged around at least a portion of said interior insulating material, said intumescent material consisting essentially of filler material, binder material, and a hydrated alkali metal silicate intumescent component.
16. (New) A fire stop article as defined in claim 15, wherein said opening is blank.
17. (New) A fire stop article as defined in claim 15, wherein at least one item passes through said opening.
18. (New) A fire stop article as defined in claim 15, wherein a plurality of said fire stop articles can be used to create a fire stop in an opening having an area of greater than 300 square inches and a concrete substrate for adhesion that is passes a hose stream test in accordance with ASTM Test E814.
19. (New) A fire stop article as defined in claim 15, further comprising an enclosure surrounding said insulating material and said intumescent material.
20. (New) A fire stop article as defined in claim 19, wherein said enclosure is a sealed bag formed of polymeric material.
21. (New) A fire stop article as defined in claim 15, wherein the intumescent material further includes organic char-forming components.

22. (New) A fire stop article as defined in claim 15, wherein said interior insulating material comprises inorganic fibrous material.

23. (New) A fire stop article as defined in claim 22, wherein said inorganic fibrous material comprises at least one of fiberglass, mineral wool, refractory ceramic materials, and mixtures thereof.

24. (New) A fire stop article as defined in claim 9, wherein said inorganic fibrous material comprises mineral wool having a density of at least 4 pounds per cubic foot.

25. (New) A fire stop article as defined in claim 15, wherein said interior insulating material has opposed first and second opposed major surfaces, and further wherein sheets of intumescent material are arranged adjacent each of said first and second surfaces.

26. (New) A fire stop article as defined in claim 15, wherein each of said intumescent sheets is adhesively bonded with said insulating material first and second major surfaces.

27. (New) A fire stop article as defined in claim 15, wherein each of said intumescent sheets bond to said insulating material upon exposure to a temperature of 1200 °F.

28. (New) A fire stop article as defined in claim 15, wherein a plurality of said fire stop articles are arranged in said opening to form a fire barrier assembly in said opening.

29. (New) A fire stop article as defined in claim 28, wherein said fire stop articles are held in place in said opening by compression.

30. (New) A composite fire stop article for placement in an opening in a partition to form a fire barrier in the opening without a secondary support structure, said article comprising:

- (a) an interior insulating material;

(b) an intumescent material arranged around at least a portion of said interior insulating material, said intumescent material consisting essentially of filler material, binder material, and a hydrated alkali metal silicate intumescent component; and

(c) a sealed enclosure formed of polymeric material surrounding said insulating material and said intumescent material;

wherein a plurality of said fire stop articles can be placed in said opening and held in place therein by compression to create a fire stop in an opening having an area of greater than 300 square inches and a concrete substrate for adhesion capable that passes a hose stream test in accordance with ASTM Test E814.